

Washington, DC – Today Congressman Charlie Wilson met with Desni Crock who considers herself an “insurance abuse survivor.” Crock, who lives in Rep. Wilson’s district in Marietta, brought her three year old daughter, who survived a rare form of lung cancer.

“I’ve met with many survivors over the years,” Wilson said, “but it’s sad that we’ve come to a point where people consider themselves survivors of insurance company



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abuse. Insurance is supposed to be about helping people. We need to do something about this.”

Crock’s daughter, Bridget, was initially diagnosed in March 2008 with pneumonia, and it took many tests to find out that she actually had a very rare form of lung cancer. The family lives 90 minutes from a children’s hospital in West Virginia, which has one of the few oncologists in the country who has successfully treated other children with this type of cancer. However, that hospital was out of Crock’s insurance company’s network. That meant that the family would have to pay 40% of the costs on their own. The bills exceeded \$35,000 in just the first two months.

Bridget’s lung was eventually removed and she underwent extensive chemo therapy. Crock had to quit her job as a realtor to take care of her daughter and her husband worked nights and weekends to pay the medical bills. The West Virginia hospital was finally re-classified as in-network just in time for Bridget’s final chemo treatment in July.

As the family struggles to pay off the bills they racked up during Bridget’s treatment, Crock

worries about her daughter's financial future. Bridget is in remission now, but at three years old she's already got a pre-existing condition.

"Financially, she's doomed," Crock said.

Crock and Wilson discussed the President's health care plan. The plan holds insurance companies accountable by laying out common-sense rules of the road to keep premiums down and prevent insurance industry abuses and denial of care.

"Most importantly, for your daughter," Wilson told Crock, "it will end discrimination against Americans with pre-existing conditions."

The plan also sets up a new competitive health insurance market giving tens of millions of Americans and small business owners the purchasing power big businesses enjoy. It makes insurance more affordable by providing the largest middle class tax cut for health care in history reducing premium costs for tens of millions of families and small business owners who are priced out of coverage today. This will help over 31 million more Americans afford health care.

"I'm not fighting for me," Crock said. "I know other families are going to be in this same situation and it needs to change. I want any child to be able to go the hospital they need to go to."

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